

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY: THE "OSWALD WINDOW"

Neil Macdonald
Assistant Editor

On November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, President John F. Kennedy, while riding in an open limousine through Dealey Plaza, was shot to death. Lee Harvey Oswald, an ex-Marine, former visitor to the Soviet Union, was arrested and interrogated in the Dallas police station in Dealey Plaza. At one time he declared in front of newspaper reporters "I am a patsy, I didn't shoot anybody." He was shot to death on Nov. 24 by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub operator, in the basement of the Dallas police station.

The verbatim record of Oswald's interrogation in the Dallas police station was never produced, and never given to the Warren Commission, the commission appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to investigate the assassination. And the Warren Commission never raised any questions about the disappearance of the record.

510 Photographs

The assassination of President Kennedy was the most photographed murder in history.

Approximately 75 photographers took a total of approximately 510 photographs. Here the word "photograph" includes both stills and movie sequences; and the 10 to 500 frames of a sequence are here counted as one "photograph".

The Warren Commission only examined 26 of the 510 photographs, or about 5%.

The Zapruder Film

The most famous of all the photographs was a color movie film taken by Abraham Zapruder, an accidental bystander. This movie had slightly over 480 frames, taken 1/18 of a second apart, and showed the procession from before the first shot to after the last shot. This film and its frames were used by the Warren Commission in order to establish the timing of the crucial events that happened in Dealey Plaza. But the film itself — top hot news of course at the time — was not shown even partially on national television until 1975, more than 11 years later.

The Sixth Floor Window

The Warren Commission concluded from its investigation that the sixth floor easternmost window of the building at Dealey Plaza housing the Texas School Book Depository was the window from which Lee Harvey Oswald, "lone assassin", had fired at Kennedy.

Two views of this window, one taken 5.7 seconds before the death of Kennedy, and the other one 3 seconds afterwards, are shown on the back cover of this issue of PURSUIT.

In each view, the window is only about 1/4 open. In each view no person can be seen.

These pictures and their captions are reprinted from the May 1970 issue of "Computers and Automation", taken from the article by Richard E. Sprague, "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: The Application of Computers to the Photographic Evidence".

So among other things that Oswald had to do, in order to conform with the conclusions expressed in the report of the Warren Commission, were these:

- appear at the window less than 5.7 seconds before the shooting;
- fire three shots through the open window;
- disappear from the window before 3 seconds afterwards; and
- accomplish all this with the window less than 1/4 open — or else move the window back to just the same degree of opening.

How much can anyone do in 8.7 seconds?

For more information and more photographs, see the May 1970 article previously referred to.

Sprague — Continued from page 4

10. Author's interview with Haynes Johnson (author of "Bay of Pigs"), May 12, 1973.
11. Sprague, Richard E., and Edmund C. Berkeley, "The Attempted Framing of Jim Garrison" in "Computers and Automation", Dec., 1973. p. 23
12. Author's interview with Victor Marchetti, Jan. 7, 1974; and Zodiak News Service Release, Dec. 21, 1973.
13. "New Orleans Times-Picayune" news stories, Feb. and Mar., 1969.
14. "New Orleans Times-Picayune" news stories throughout 1969.
15. Files of the District Attorney's Office, Orleans Parish, New Orleans, La.
16. Ford, Gerald, "Portrait of the Assassin", Simon and Schuster, 1965.
17. Sprague, Richard E., Edmund C. Berkeley, and Leslie Mezei, "The May Article, 'The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: The Application of Computers to the Photographic Evidence' — Report No. 2" in "Computers and Automation", July, 1970, p. 29; also Sprague, Richard E., "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy — Declassification of Relevant Documents from the National Archives" in "Computers and Automation", Oct., 1971, p. 41 □

BACK COPIES of COMPUTERS AND PEOPLE and COMPUTERS AND AUTOMATION are available. (Reprints are not available.) The price of a back copy is \$2.00, but if FOUR or more copies are ordered, the price for each is \$1.50. Please add 30 cents per copy for postage and handling. Order from Berkeley Enterprises, Inc., 815 Washington St., Newtonville, Mass. 02160.